

GTA EDUCATION TIMELINE

New GTAs (MA, MFA) who will teach in the Composition Program *typically* follow the sequence outlined here.

FIRST FALL SEMESTER ENGL5004

The first semester entails taking ENGL5004: Theory and Practice In University Writing Instruction, as well as attending the program's fall colloquium and three professional development events (teaching talks/circles).

SUMMER BEFORE TEACHING WELCOME KIT AND AUGUST WORKSHOP

In the summer before teaching for the first time, GTAs will receive a welcome kit with materials highlighting the Virginia Tech curriculum. GTAs then attend the week-long August Workshop, which is usually scheduled for the first full week starting on or after August 10.

SECOND SPRING SEMESTER ENGL5034: PRACTICUM II

In the second spring semester, GTAs continue in ENGL5034. They may become involved in planning and leading a professional development event. GTAs attend the spring colloquium and three professional development events (teaching talks/circles).

TEACHING WITH DISTINCTION FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in further professionalizing as a teacher of writing during your program of study at Virginia Tech, you will find abundant opportunities to do so not limited to the following: serving on the Composition Committee, applying for the Outstanding Teaching Portfolio Award, proposing to present at a conference, contributing an entry at HokiesWrite.com, and more. Contact composition@vt.edu for more information.

FIRST SPRING SEMESTER ENGL5034: MENTORING

The second semester introduces GTAs to experienced instructors--mentors--who will work together to make more familiar effective composition teaching practices. This apprenticeship takes place with registration in ENGL5034. GTAs attend the spring colloquium and three professional development events (teaching talks/circles).

SECOND FALL SEMESTER ENGL5034: PRACTICUM I

In the second fall semester, while teaching for the first time, GTAs enroll in ENGL5034: Practicum I, an experience designed to support teaching, foster resource development and sharing, and coordinate teaching observations. GTAs attend the fall colloquium and three professional development events (teaching talks/circles).

BEYOND SECOND YEAR CONTINUING SUPPORT

All GTAs who are actively teaching in the program are expected to attend and participate in each semester's colloquium and the three professional development events (teaching talks/circles). For third-year MFAs, appointments in Composition usually only happen in the fall semester. PhD students beyond second year are encouraged to propose ideas for leading professional development events, as these are significant for becoming future faculty. At least one formal observation of teaching is done each year beyond second year.

VARIATIONS

New GTAs who already hold an MA or MFA and who have prior university-level teaching experience may be approved for an alternative sequence that includes teaching composition in the first semester. Contact your program's graduate coordinator to learn more.